UNCLASSIFIED POL 14 VIETS

(925)

30

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISE

8-29-67

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04314 291619Z

90
ACTION EA-09

INFO SAL-01 GPM-03 SC-01 PSC-01 USIA-12 H-02 NSC-10 NSAE-00 L-03
INR-07 P-04 CIA-04 DOD-01 SP-02 SS-35 SAM-03 AID-30 IO-21 RSR-01
/160 W

R 291144Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5603
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 831

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/RPS/IR
DATE 12/23/81

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4314

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. EMBOFFS LUNCHED AUGUST 29 WITH [redacted] R [redacted] AND STAFFER [redacted] [redacted] IS CURRENTLY SECGEN OF THE [redacted]

2. EARLY IN THE COVERSATION [redacted] SAID THAT THE THREE SO-CALLED COCONUT LISTS (32, 33, AND 34), BIENG SUPPORTED BY THE TOAN VIET BLOC WERE IN FINCANCIAL TROUBLE. THEIR PROSPECTS FOR ELECTION CONTINUED TO BE EXCELLENT, BUT HE FEELS THAT THEY MIST PUMP AN ADDITIONAL MILLION PIASTRES PER LIST INTO THE CAMPAIGN TO INSURE THEIR VICTORY. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAD NO FURTHER RESOURCES OF THEIR OWN AND [redacted] WAS DEPRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE HE WAS

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 4314 C O N F I D E N T I A L
NOW RELUCTANT TO FILE FOR THE LOWER HOUSE AS HAD
BEEN HIS INTENTION. AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 04314 291619Z

OF THEIR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND THE CHANCESOF THE COCONUT LISTS, [ ]DECIDEDHE WOULD AFTER ALL FILE FOR THE LOWER HOUSE ON SPEUCLATION. HE REASONED THAT OF THE COCONUT LISTS DID WIN, HE (AND THE[ ]BLOC) WOULD HAVE NO FURTHER FINACNIAL WORRIES. AND IF THE COCONUT LISTS FAILED, HE COULD ALWASY WITHDRAW. (FILING FOR THE LOWER HOUSE, WHICH OPENED ON AUGUST 24 AND RUNS THROUGH AUGUST 31 HAS BEEN VERY BRISK. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 28,[ ] SAID THAT ALREADY OVER TWO HUNDRED HOEPFULS HAD FILED FOR THE FIFTEEN SEATS AT CONTEST IN THE CAPITAL. HE EXPECTS OVER FOUR HUNDRED BEFORE REGISTRATION CLOSES.)

3.[ ]SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT MEETING BIENG HELD DIEN HONG HALL AUGUST 29 BY SENATE LISTS TO PROTEST GVN ENDORESEMTN OF SIX LISTS. (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.)[ ]CONVICNED THAT STORY OF GVN ENDORSEMENT IS TRUE, BUT HE VIES CONVOCATION AT DIEN HONG AS IMPRACTICAL IDEA BECAUSE LISTS HAVE NO ACUTAL PROOF

PAGE THREE RUMJIR 4314 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TO SUPPORT ENDORESEMENT CHARGE. GVN IS IN HIS VIEW TOO CLEVER FOR THAT. ALTHOUGH ONLY ONE OF COCNUT LISTS (#32) IS ON SO CALLED APPROVED GVN LIST,[ ] IS NOT TOO CONCERNED ABOUT ENDORESEMTN. HE APPEARS TO FEEL THAT IF ONE COCONUT LIST IS ELECTED, ALL WILL BE ELECTED.

4.[ ] IS VERY PLEASED AT THE WAY CAMPAIGN IS GOING. HE FEELS THAT DESPTIE CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES, CAMPAIGN IS REAMRKABLY FREE AND RESULT WIL BE A FIRST STEP TOWARD THE CREATON OF A FREELY ELECTED, REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN VIETNAM. ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL RESULTS, ACCORDING TO[ ] WILL BE A PRAGMATIC TESTING OF THE TRUE POLITICAL STRENGTH OF SUCH ELEMENTS AS THE CAO DAI, HOA HAO, BUDDHISTS, AND CATHOLICS, AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES, WHO HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN VIETNAMESE POLITICAL LIFE OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS WITHOUT EVER HAVING BEEN TESTED AT THE POLLS.

GP-3, BUNKER

DECLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL